



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**John Hoeven**  
Governor

PROCLAMATION  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**  
APRIL 2009

**WHEREAS**, every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes, with a majority of victims being assaulted by someone they know; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes, with 60 percent still being left unreported; and

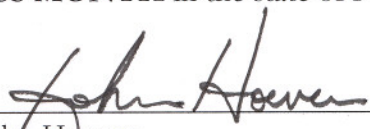
**WHEREAS**, sexual assault victims experience severe depression, anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and lost work hours and productivity at a much higher rate than the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition Against Sexual Assault in North Dakota and local crisis centers across the state are committed to providing leadership and support in the identification, intervention and prevention of sexual violence; and

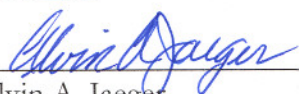
**WHEREAS**, state and local government, victim service providers, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens across the state are working together to continue to strengthen North Dakota's sexual assault laws, including aggressive investigating and prosecution; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans are encouraged to recognize victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, national and community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in promoting awareness about sexual assault.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2009, **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

  
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John Hoeven  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State